

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 18-27 have been amended.

In the Office Action of November 8, 2007, the Examiner contended that Applicant's August 30, 2007 response to the Office Action of May 30, 2007 is not fully responsive because it did not provide arguments over the rejection of claims 20 and 24, which the Examiner considers to be independent claims. The Examiner suggested that the preamble of claims 20 and 24 be changed if Applicant does not intend these claims to be independent.

The preamble of claim 20 has been amended to simply recite "A method in accord with claim 18." The preamble of claim 24 has been similarly amended to recited "A method in accord with claim 19." These amendments make clear that claims 20 and 24 are dependent claims, depending from independent claims 18 and 19, respectively. The preamble of claims 18 and 19 have also been amended for clarity and consistency with claims 20 and 24 to recite "A method comprising the steps of." Dependent claims 21-23 and 25-27 have been similarly amended for consistency. No new matter has been added.

The foregoing amendments clarify the nature of claims 20 and 24 as depending from claims 18 and 19, respectively. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Amendment of August 30, 2007, is now in compliance with 37 CFR 1.111, since its arguments address all the claim rejections. No extension fee is due, since this paper is being submitted within one month of the mailing of the Office communication.

Application No.: 10/798,450

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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